Evaluation of PMRY

1333. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Ministry of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evaluated the implementation and success of Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in Andhra Pradesh and other States of the country;

(b) if so, the important findings thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The first round of evaluation of the PMRY was conducted in 1996-97 for the programme years 1993-94 and 1994-95 in 21 States/Union Territories (UTs), including Andhra Pradesh. The second round of evaluation was conducted in 2000-01 for the programme years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 in 5 States, including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The important findings/recommendations of the evaluations studies include enhancement of upper age limit for eligibility of applicants, raising of the permissible family income ceiling, revision of the minimum educational qualification of applicants, upward revision of project cost, continuation of training of selected applicants with stipend, etc.

(c) Some of the parameters of the scheme, *viz.*, increase in maximum age limit to 45 years for Scheduled Caste/Scheeduled Tribe, ex-servicemen, physically challenged and women applicants, reducing the minimum educational qualification to Class VIII pass, raising the eligible family income ceiling to Rs. 40,000 per annum, etc., have been modified, based, *inter alia,* on the recommendations of the evaluation studies of the PMRY.

Closure of cottage industries

1334. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various cottage industries functioning in different parts of the country are closing down, as their products fail to get their cost price in the market and incur loss; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save cottage industries as well as provide employment to those rendered jobless due to closure of these industries?